

CLAIMS

1. A resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer characterized by comprising spherical ferrite particles having an average particle size of 20 to 50 μm , a surface uniformity of 90% or more, an average sphericity of 1 to 1.3, and a sphericity standard deviation of 0.15 or less.
2. The resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 1, wherein the spherical ferrite particles have a surface uniformity of 92 to 100% and a sphericity standard deviation of 0.125 or less.
3. The resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the spherical ferrite particles have an apparent density of 2.0 to 2.5 g/cm^3 , a magnetization of 40 to 80 Am^2/kg in a magnetic field of 79.5 A/m , and a scattered material magnetization of 80% or more of a main body magnetization.
4. A process for producing a resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer, the process comprising weighing and mixing ferrite raw materials, crushing the mixture, granulating the obtained slurry, sintering the granules, and coating the sintered material, with a resin, characterized in that the sintering is performed at a sintering temperature of 1,200°C or more while the granules are made to flow by fluidizing means.
5. The process for producing a resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 4,

wherein the sintering temperature is 1,200 to 1,400°C, and the sintering time is 0.1 to 5 h.

6. The process for producing a resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 4 or 5, wherein before the sintering, the granules are pre-sintered at 500 to 700°C for 0.1 to 5 h.

7. The process for producing a resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 4, 5, or 6, wherein the sintering is performed by a rotary sintering furnace.

8. The process for producing a resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 7, wherein the rotary sintering furnace has a retort rotation speed of 0.5 to 10 rpm, a retort inclination of 0.5 to 4°, an inlet hammering frequency of 10 to 300 times/min, and an outlet hammering frequency of 10 to 300 times/min.

9. An electrophotographic developer comprising the resin-coated carrier according to claim 1, 2, or 3 and a toner.